I. OPERATIONAL BENEFITS TO UNITED STATES FORCES

The 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) is based on the premise that the strength and influence of the United States are deeply intertwined with the fate of the broader international system—a system of alliances, partnerships, and multinational institutions that our country has helped build and sustain for more than sixty years. Because of this, the QDR concludes, the United States must be prepared to support the broad national goals of promoting stability in key regions, providing assistance to nations in need, and promoting the common good.

U.S. security cooperation is an important instrument in executing this strategy. Security cooperation advances U.S. security interests by building defense partnerships for the future. Security cooperation also prepares the United States, allies, and partner nations for unforeseen circumstances.

Security cooperation involves the following operational benefits:

1. Building defense relationships that promote specific U.S. security interests.
2. Developing allied and partner military capabilities for self-defense and coalition operations, including allied transformation.
3. Improving information exchange and intelligence sharing to harmonize views on security challenges.
4. Providing U.S. forces with peacetime and contingency access and en route infrastructure.
5. Influencing the development of foreign military institutions and their roles in democratic societies.

For details on the benefits of specific programs, see the Program Descriptions section.